

PARKGATE SOCIETY

SPRING 1987

NEWSLETTER -

Number 32

President	J B Cochrane C.B.E.		
Chairman	G W Place	336	2891
V. Chairman	S C Edwards	336	1190
Secretary	Mrs A M Clarke	336	1069
Treasurer	E P D Taylor	336	4321

A CHANGE OF STYLE !

You will undoubtedly notice a change of layout, content and style in this issue of the Newsletter. 'Why so?' you are entitled to ask. For some twelve years now the task of editing and producing the Newsletter has resided with Geoffrey Place. Not surprisingly after such a long spell of duty he requested at the very least a breather, so in a moment of recklessness I (Geoff. Topp) offered to carry the torch at least for a couple of issues. I am sure that you would wish me to thank Geoffrey on behalf of all of us and in particular the Committee for all his efforts and the high standards of his work over all those years and we trust that he will enjoy his rest from editorial duties.

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<p>* FRUIT OF THE VINE -0- A viticulture slide show; followed by a wine tasting session! -:- George Dutton & Son. Wine Merchants. oOo * MONDAY 2nd MARCH 8pm * PARKGATE HOTEL</p>	<p>SMOOTH FLOWING WATERS The River Dee as it meanders from hills to the sea. -:- Mr. B.P. Hodgson oOo MONDAY 13th APRIL 8pm PARKGATE HOTEL</p>	<p>ENVIRONMENT WEEK A national event supported by the Parkgate Society -:- 25th APRIL to 4th MAY</p>	<p>* * * * * * *</p>
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FOR ENVIRONMENT WEEK WATCH THE DONKEY STAND 25th/26th APRIL

<p>* KEEPING OUR HERITAGE -:- The work and aims of the Cheshire Conservation Trust oOo Mrs E. Spencer oOo * MONDAY 18th MAY 8pm * PARKGATE HOTEL</p>	<p>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! The Parkgate Society celebrates its fifteenth year. oOo A Tea Party in the grounds of Leighton Banastre, The Parade, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Mould. Invitations will be sent to members and early response is advised as the tickets will be strictly limited. Proceeds to Charity. Sat. 27th June.</p>	<p>* * * * * * *</p>
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LITTER - When polite signs were enough to deter!

LET NO ONE SAY
AND SAY IT TO YOUR SHAME
THAT ALL WAS BEAUTY HERE
UNTIL YOU CAME.

N.C.C.S.
AMENITIES

This sign was in place adjacent to Moorside Lane railway bridge in the 1930's.

Mr. Vincent CrookA Tribute.

It was with deep regret that we learnt, on October 17th. last year, of the death of Mr. Vincent Crook, M.P.S., who was for many years Chemist to the residents of Parkgate at his Chemists shop on The Parade. Vincent Crook came to Parkgate in 1933 and he was joined by his wife in 1936. His Chemist's shop was also the Parkgate Post Office and Mr. Crook was to become Parkgate Postmaster from 1936 until 1965.

It is however to Mr. Crook's keen interest in photography that we shall owe a particular and everlasting debt of gratitude , for it was through his camera lenses that he recorded so many views of Parkgate in those bygone years. His evocative photographs of sunsets over the Dee and the waves breaking over The Parade on a stormy day when the ebb and flow of the tides was a twice daily occurrence in Parkgate. Several of his photographs were published as postcards and now give us a splendid record of an era in the history of Parkgate which has gone for ever.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

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Old Haven

Old houses grey with wind and sun so placed
Along the airey margin of the Dee.
That each in turn looks out across the waste
Of drifting sand and shallow to the sea.

Old boats low-moored upon the channels edge,
Asleep and dreaming of tomorrows tide;
A mist of nets along the paling-ledge
A spread of sail-cloth that the sun has dried;

A group of fisherfolk with southern eyes
And accents borrowed from a bygone day
The screams of seagulls and the far off cries
Of wild-fowl flying home from Hilbry Way;

This is Old Haven and the place I love;
I love the sea-wall that its tides have broke,
The sandy shallows and the gulls above
The houses, boats and nets and fisherfolk.

[Reproduced from 'Quair of Sonnets & Ballads' - John Pride]
C.1930

Through the Newsletter and meetings the Society frequently deals with Parkgate's past and indeed the present, but what of the future? The last twenty years have seen considerable housing developments in Parkgate which has changed it from a small relatively quiet backwater into a sizeable residential community. Recent years have also seen a change in the leisure activities of the British people and Parkgate has become an even more popular place to visit for an evening out or a walk and an ice-cream during the daytime. Not all developments have been welcomed and the litter and parking problems remain as a source of irritation for all of us.

It seems appropriate then that as a Society and for the guidance of your committee when they are commenting on planning proposals to the Borough Council, that discussion should take place on the policy for the future.

An analysis of the present position shows that there are now virtually no sizeable areas of land left in Parkgate which could be used for development, and the process of infilling, the building of properties in gardens, which still continues will soon have run its course. The most recent statements by the planning authorities indicates that there is no intention to extend the draft Green Belt boundaries around Parkgate, but such a policy cannot be taken for granted.

So what comments have you for us, ideas, or simply support for the status quo, communicated to us via the Secretary would be most welcome. As a Society it is vital that we are aware of members views and that as a committee we try to reflect those views.

ASTROTURF ARRIVES IN PARKGATE.

Observant members of the Society will have noticed that the Wirral County Park picnic area, the piece that was never used behind the old Station House on Station Road, has been transformed into four Astroturf tennis courts. This has been achieved by Neston Cricket Club by leasing the land from Cheshire County Council. These courts in addition to four new all weather courts and the grass courts already in existence must put Neston Cricket Club amongst the best equipped for tennis in the North West of England. Congratulations to a dynamic and successful club!

GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS!

Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council in conjunction with Wirral Borough Council will be spraying the marshes again this year to reinforce the initial success in 1986 against the mosquitoes. So mosquitoes beware, residents relax. We hope!

GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS!

Towards more thoughtful dog owners, of which there is a definite lack in Parkgate, as in so many places, Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough council will make 2000 'pooper scoopers' available through Vets, throughout the Borough this Spring. We wish this experimental campaign every success.

GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS!

1986 A.G.M. - 'For those who were unable to be present'

The very necessary business of the A.G.M. was speedily disposed of commencing with the approval of the previous years minutes and the annual accounts, which were presented by the Chairman in the absence of the Treasurer. The Chairman explained that the guide book 'This is Parkgate' is now being retailed in several commercial outlets including W.H.Smith (Birkenhead). The books being sold to the retailer at a discount on their sale price. Expenditure had been higher in 1986 than in the previous year primarily due to the expenditure towards the cost of additional new litter bins on The Parade. The accounts were duly adopted.

It was noted that there were adequate funds in the Society to enable additional projects of a modest nature to be undertaken if suitable suggestions were forthcoming. This would be in addition to the display of Neston Parish Saxon stones (in conjunction with Neston Civic Society), a reprint of the guide book and a research project for an intended book on the Parish of Neston and Parkgate.

The Chairman, Geoffrey Place, was congratulated on his recent contribution to a two part T.V. programme on the river Dee from its source to sea. It was suggested that the film might be shown in its entirety at a future Society meeting.

A member raised the matter of parking problems, the Chairman pointed out that the Society had suggested an infill car park, between Le Bistrot (Boathouse) and the old baths site, as the only useful suggestion that could be thought of at the present.

The existing committee was re-elected : Chmn.- G W Place; V Chmn.- S C Edwards; Treasurer - E P D Taylor; Sec - Mrs A M Clarke and members - Mrs S Britt; Miss M Tinker; Mrs V Place; A D G Grenfell; M S Potts; G A Topp; D L Walker.

Following the formal business members were treated to a very interesting and stimulating talk by Superintendent Heathcote, who is stationed in Ellesmere Port, on the work of the police force in the community. It was also our pleasure to have Neston's newly appointed Station Sergeant, Sergeant Hill present who also addressed the meeting. Their addressing us was greatly appreciated and we welcome Sergeant Hill to the area with the sincere hope that members do not have to call upon his services personally.

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HAVE YOU READ 'DEEWATCH'?

DEEWATCH is the publication of the 'DEEWATCH ESTUARY CONSERVATION GROUP' and costs just 25 pence. Deewatch contains interesting news and information on the wildlife of the Dee estuary and any developments likely to affect the ecology of the estuary. Deewatch can be obtained through the PARKGATE SOCIETY

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WHEN JOHN WESLEY PASSED THIS WAY.

'August 24th. 1760.'

'Sun. 24th. At seven I took leave of my friends, [In Dublin] and about noon embarked onboard the 'Nonpareil' for Chester. We had forty or fifty passengers on board, half of whom were cabin passengers. I was afraid we should have an uneasy time in the midst of such a crowd of gentry. We sailed out with a fair wind, but at four in the afternoon it failed, and left us in a dead calm. I then made the gentlemen an offer, of preaching, which they thankfully accepted. While I was preaching the wind sprung up fair, but the next day we were becalmed again. In the afternoon they desired me to give them another sermon, and continued till about noon. On Tuesday we landed at Parkgate. Being in haste, I would not stay for my own horse, which I found could not land till low water. So I bought one; and having hired another set forward without delay. We reached Whitchurch that evening.'

[Wesley's Works, Vol.3, p.14]

*Further extracts will be published in future editions of the Newsletter.

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SNIPPETS!

The Society are pressing Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council to provide a suitable new litter bin in Mostyn Square, by the bus stop.

The Chairman has contacted Redrow with regard to the poor state of Little Lane. We hope that by the time you receive the Newsletter that remedial action will have taken place. We realise that major building developments cause some disruption but we are sure that this can be minimised with the help and co-operation of the developer concerned.

We understand that plans are well advanced for a sympathetically designed extension to St. Thomas's Church.

Should you spot a keen photographer wandering about the environs of Parkgate, there is a fair chance that it will be our very own committee member Leonard Walker. He is doing sterling work on behalf of the Society providing a contemporary photographic record of the buildings, transport etc. of Parkgate. This will be our contribution to the recording of Parkgate's history for future generations.

Did you miss the Centre of Neston talk on Monday 19th. January? If so you missed a magnificent evening presented by Edward Hilditch and Geoffrey Place to an appreciative audience of members of the Neston Civic Society, the Burton & South Wirral History Society and our Parkgate Society. The slides of old photographs; and some modern ones; was of interest to those who have known Neston for many years as well as to newer residents. The historical background which demonstrated the development of Neston from its days as a village to today's small town bustle was most interestingly given by Geoffrey Place. Thank you to all who were able to come for making one of the largest audiences we have ever experienced.

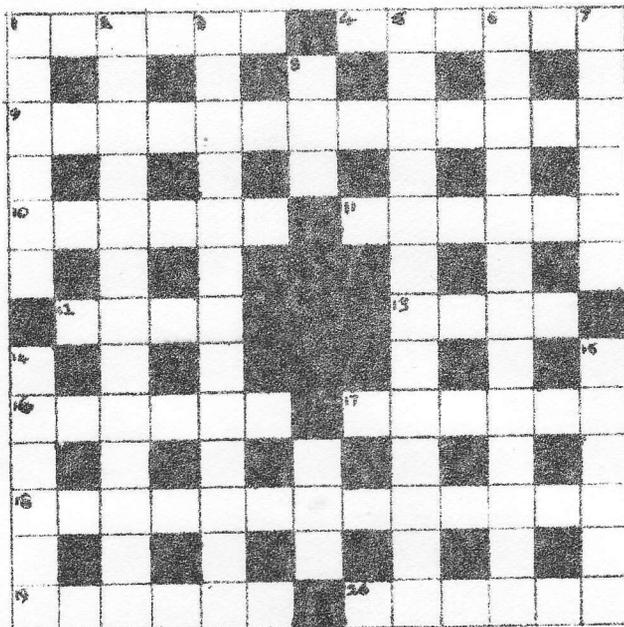
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Secretary : Mrs A M Clarke, Sea View, The Parade, Parkgate.

Newsletter Editor : Geoff Topp, 14, Woodlands Close, Parkgate.

PARKGATE PRIZE CROSSWORD

A copy of the Society publication 'This is Parkgate its buidings and their Story.' by your side may be of some assistance. If you have yet to buy one, they are on sale locally and from the Society for 75p. Good Luck!



CLUES :

ACROSS

- 1. Sam's home wasn't a fortress.[6]
- 4. A modest one would use the hood.[6]
- 9. A Preacher's journey.[7.2.4]
- 10. A billiard player would prefer his crustacea this way.[6]
- 11. Strictly speaking Black & White houses don't have this.[6]
- 12. If only Spartina grass didn't do this.[4]
- 13. You would do this with difficulty on The Parade on a Sunday in summer.[4]
- 16. A betting man giving help.[6]
- 17. A Boathouse tea bun would have to be served differently to give you this.[6]
- 18. In the pink, piscatorially speaking.[6.7]
- 19. Edward Hollingshead would presumably do this if people had left Parkgate.[6]
- 20. Parkgate has one of these but mainly for sitting on.[6]

DOWN

- 1. He, by design perhaps, set his houses back from The Parade.[6]
- 2. Presumably the centre one would not be this in a strong westerly wind.[9.4]
- 3. There are seven Bell's amongst them.[6.7]
- 5. All of these put a different light on the esterial view. [3.4.6]
- 6. If you walk the right line you may arrive there.[6.7]
- 7. Most visitors to Parkgate want to do this.[6]
- 8. For 107 years here, how to do this.[3]
- 14. If the Ropewalk ever had a strong one of these along its not recorded.[6]
- 15. If this is under the saltmarsh they'll have to omit the polar direction.[3.3]

Completed solutions to Geoff. Topp, 14, Woodlan's Close, Parkgate. by noon, Sunday 15th March. The first correct solution drawn out will win the sender a £5 book token.